

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of establishing restorable paths in an information network in response to arriving traffic requests, the network having a number of nodes and links between corresponding pairs of nodes, comprising:

receiving requests at a first node of the network for transmission of traffic to a second node of the network, wherein a given request specifies a desired transmission bandwidth for an active path and a backup path to be established between the first and the second nodes;

distributing information to nodes in the network concerning (a) total bandwidth reserved by each link in the network for all active paths currently defined in the network, and (b) total bandwidth reserved by each link in the network for all backup paths currently defined in the network;

identifying potential active links in the network for an active path in response to a given request, wherein the potential active links each have an available bandwidth at least equal to the bandwidth specified by the given request;

